STATE OF BRUNEI

FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

This document is published by the direction of His Highness the Sultan in Council.

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FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 1954-1958

Since the end of the war the Government of Brunei has been busily engaged in repairing the damage suffered during the war and in laying the foundations for greatly improved public services. The work of repair is now approaching completion; the rebuilding of the bazaars to improved designs is almost finished; new offices, police stations and houses have been erected.

The improvement of public services has also made progress; many new schools have been provided and the number of teachers increased; a new general hospital has been built in Brunei Town and a service of travelling dispensaries started; numerous improvements have been made to roads and bridges and the activities of the Agricultural Department greatly extended. These improved medical and agricultural services are being provided free of charge to the poorer section of the community. State education however is available free of charge to all sections of the community to whom also Government is giving substantial assistance by selling rice below cost. (At current prices the rice subsidy is costing Government about $600,000 a year.)

A regular weekly launch service between Brunei and Labuan, at very low fares for mails and passengers, has been started. Free transport from Brunei of rice and sugar rations for the Temburong district is now provided.

These considerable achievements have been carried out in spite of the difficulties and delays created by the post-war shortage of skilled men, and of imported materials and machinery of all kinds. The supply of men and materials has recently improved and Government is now able to announce a comprehensive plan for the further development of the State and for the improvement of its public services.

In the last three years the rapid expansion in the production of petroleum from the Seria oilfield has brought prosperity to Brunei. In consequence, the State Revenue from Income Tax and Oil Royalties has greatly increased. Government, by its Development Plan, proposes to spend this increased revenue for the welfare of the people of Brunei.

His Highness the Sultan in Council has, therefore, directed that the sum of $100,000,000 shall be set aside in a Development Fund to pay for the projects included in the Development Plan, and has appointed a Development Committee to supervise the work. It will be the duty of the Committee to prepare a detailed description and estimate of cost for each project and to see that it is carried out efficiently and without avoidable delay.

Brief descriptions of the more important projects which it is proposed to include in the Five Year Development Plan are included in the succeeding paragraphs.

SOCIAL SERVICES

(1) Pensions and disability allowances

An enactment will be made granting pensions and allowance to—

(a) all persons over the age of 60 years
(b) blind persons and their dependents
(c) dependents of lepers and insane persons
(d) widows and fatherless children
(e) persons who through deformity sickness or injury are unable to follow their occupation.

The rules governing the payment of the allowances and the the amounts payable will be laid down in the enactment which will be published as soon as possible. It is intended that pensions and allowances shall be payable monthly and that there shall be no means test.

(2) Resettlement

It is proposed to provide land near Brunei Town for the resettlement of as many as possible of the landless inhabitants of the Kampong Ayer, Brunei. A small holding will be provided for each family and they will be assisted in the work of planting the land with tree and other crops and in building houses.

AGRICULTURE

(3) Improvement of the rubber industry

It is proposed to start an extensive nursery for the production of high yielding budded and seedling rubber. The plants will be sold to the public at a low price, preference being given at first to families from the Kampong Ayer who participate in the resettlement scheme.

(4) Irrigation

Irrigation dams will be erected at Kilanas and Lumapas and sites for other irrigation projects will be sought out and surveyed.

COMMUNICATIONS

(5) Roads

A new asphalt road between Brunei Town and Kuala Belait will be constructed. It will avoid the coast, no ferries will be used, and traffic will not be dependent upon the state of the tide. As a result, the time taken for road vehicles to travel between Brunei, Seria and Kuala Belait will be greatly reduced. The new road will give access to important forest areas at Andulau and valuable agricultural land at Jerudong, Gadong and Subok.

The existing road to Muara will be improved and asphalted.

The present road from Brunei to Kuala Belait will be improved and a floating jetty installed at Tutong for use with the new Tutong Ferryboat.

(6) Ports

The wharves at Brunei and Kuala Belait will be improved and extended.

The possibility of straightening and deepening the channels leading to Brunei Town, and removing navigational hazards to permit larger vessels to call at Brunei will be investigated.

When the work of asphalting the Muara road has been completed, the wharves at Muara will be improved and extended if the volume of trade makes it desirable.

(7) **Telephones**

A new automatic telephone exchange will be installed in Brunei Town, together with a radio-telephone system connecting all the main towns and kampongs. The system will later be connected to the Sarawak radio-telephone system.

(8) **Aerodromes**

The runway at the Brunei Town aerodrome will be ready in 1953 for light traffic; thereafter terminal buildings and a hotel will be built.

If, later, the volume of traffic warrants it, consideration will be given to the provision of more extensive facilities.

TOWN IMPROVEMENT

(9) Town plans to provide for the orderly and well-planned growth of the towns of Brunei, Kuala Belait and Seria will be prepared and, where necessary, land will be acquired for the purpose and concrete surface drains constructed.

Water-borne sewerage will be provided at the main centres in the near future.

RECLAMATION AND ANTI-EROSION WORKS

(10) Water-logged areas in and around Brunei, Kuala Belait and Seria will be reclaimed by filling

WATER SUPPLIES

(11) Improved domestic water supplies will be provided for Brunei Town and Kuala Belait and new installations made in the larger kampongs.

ELECTRICITY

(12) The electricity supplies to Brunei Town, Kuala Belait and Tutong will be improved and new supplies provided at Bangar and other large kampongs.

EDUCATION

(13) **Schools**

It is proposed to build some thirty new schools, to improve many of the existing schools and provide many new school padangs,

This great extension of the education service will involve building over 150 new quarters for teachers and other staff.

(14) Scholarships

A comprehensive scheme is being prepared to provide free State Scholarships for talented students who can profit from advanced instruction at universities and other institutions overseas. The aim of Government is eventually to staff the Brunei Civil Service exclusively with Bruneians. With this object in mind Government will be prepared to pay for the training abroad of doctors; civil, electrical, mechanical, and marine engineers; teachers; agriculturalists; accountants; surveyors and administrative officers. The speed with which the scheme can be accomplished will depend upon the number of suitable students which comes forward. All posts in the Brunei Civil Service will be open to Bruneians of talent.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(15) Hospital

A new Government hospital will be built at Kuala Belait to cater for the needs of the general public in that area.

(16) Travelling Dispensaries

Additional services by road and water will be provided to bring medical attention to those who live in remote areas.

(17) Anti-Malarial Work

The existing scheme will be extended and intensified.

(18) Training of Nurses and Dressers

The existing training facilities will be improved and enlarged to provide the increased staff required for the extended services.

CHILD WELFARE

(19) Maternity Service

A scheme for ante-natal and post-natal clinics will be extended and an increased number of qualified midwives provided. Free milk will be issued to those who need it.

(20) **School Meals**

All children attending State schools will receive a substantial free meal daily.

CONCLUSION

The development plan here described in outline will require an immense effort by the whole of the Brunei Civil Service if it is to be finished successfully within the next five years. They will have to be assisted by a large number of experts, such as doctors, teachers, engineers and surveyors, from overseas. These experts from overseas will be engaged for a limited period only and will be replaced by trained Bruneians as soon as they become available.

His Highness the Sultan is confident that he can rely upon the loyal and enthusiastic assistance of every member of the public and the Civil Service in bringing this bold plan for the welfare of the people of Brunei to a successful conclusion.

Brunei **July, 1953.**

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